



NEWS & NOTES

WINTER 2025 /2026

Director's Message

By Rabbi David Finkelstein

Camp Shoresh 2025 was absolutely great and spectacular with awesome kids and a loving staff. But do you want to know the truth? Every summer at Shoresh is truly amazing and spectacular. Yes, each summer has its own signature moments, highlights, and high points, and the common denominator is a special ruach that permeates throughout our beautiful campus. It starts from the moment everyone gets on their buses and vans to camp and lives strong for the entire 7 weeks that we are open. That is why I am so proud to be a part of this special organization for the past 45 years. It is my life blood.

After camp, our Adult Ed classes, teen classes, and Simchas Torah were all again truly spiritual and meaningful, yet I knew I had to do something for myself in order to reenergize and reinvigorate my Neshama to continue to be able to work and strive to be the best I can be as a Jewish educator. Therefore, Debbie and I decided that we were going to go to Israel together for 3 weeks in November and I was going to go back to Yeshiva to study. I joked with people that I didn't pass the first time when I was in Yeshiva in 1979-1981, so I decided to go back and try again. It truly was the most remarkable experience of my life.

I learned in my old Yeshiva Mercaz Hatorah, studied and went to classes with Debbie at Aish Hatorah, and went to the home of our good friends, **Rabbi Avrum and Sharon Kowalsky**. Reb Avrum has a beautiful way of explaining Torah thoughts from the parsha.

I learned for many days in the tunnels next to the Kotel, which was very meaningful because the Talmud (Gemara) I am currently learning is Yoma which talks all about the Yom Kippur service and everything that the Kohen Gadol has to do in the Beis Hamikdash on that day.



Shoresh Reunion
at the Kotel

I couldn't believe that I was so close to the area the Talmud was describing.

I had the chance to see a number of family members and friends while there, but the highlight took place on Sunday, November 23rd when Shoresh held its first-ever israel reunion. We all met at the Kotel and davened maariv, and then walked to the home of famous singer **Chaim Dovid Saracik**, who hosted 120 of us on his balcony along with **Yehuda Solomon** of Moshav Band and two of his brothers. The brothers graced us with beautiful music as we overlooked the Kotel and Temple Mount. It was an evening full of energy, complemented by great food, and it was inspiring to see the multiple generations that have sprouted from the Shoresh organization.

As I enter this next segment of my life, I hope to continue to find things that inspire me in my yiddishkeit everyday, and I wish the same for all of you.

Rabbi Dave
Executive Director



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Dvar Torah

By Rabbi Tzvi Tuchman

From Slavery to Freedom – and Beyond: The Inner Journey of Sefer Shemos

The Book of Shemos (Exodus) is often called the "Book of Redemption." At first glance, that seems simple: the Jews are enslaved in Egypt, God frees them, and the story ends. But the Torah does not end the book with the Exodus, nor with the splitting of the sea, nor even with the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. Instead, it carries us forward until the Mishkan (Tabernacle) is completed and God's Presence fills it. Seen as a whole, the Book of Shemos traces a deeper arc — a movement from slavery → freedom → holiness → Divine presence and relationship. The book opens with dehumanization. The people are no longer seen as souls, only as labor.

"!עֲבָדָה מָצַרְמָ אֶת־בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּפֶרַע" – "The Egyptians enslaved the children of Israel with crushing labor." (Shemos 1:13) Slavery here is not merely physical oppression. It erases identity. Time is not one's own. Voice is silenced. Life becomes task and burden. This is the starting point: a people whose sense of self has nearly disappeared. With the plagues and the Exodus, the chains are broken. At the sea, the nation witnesses God's power in a way the world has never seen. Yet freedom alone is unstable. The desert narratives — complaints, fear, longing for a return to Egypt — reveal that freedom without direction can become confusion. Chazal capture this idea in a brief but profound teaching: "There is no true freedom except through Torah." (Avos 6:2) Freedom is not simply the absence of oppression. It is the creation of space in which purpose can be chosen and lived. At Har Sinai, that purpose takes form. God calls the nation to a new identity:

"אַתֶּם תְּהִוּ לְמִלְחָמָת קָדוֹשָׁם וְנוּ קָדוֹשׁ" – "And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." (Shemos 19:6)

The mitzvos reveal a path in which ordinary life — work, speech, family, money, time — can become elevated. Holiness is not an escape from the world. It is the sanctifying of the world.

And yet, Shemos still does not end here. Receiving commandments makes Israel recipients. Something more must occur: holiness must be built into reality, not only heard at a mountain. The Mishkan marks a new stage. The people contribute, craft, and create — not as slaves, but as willing partners. Out of generosity and shared effort, a space emerges where God's Presence can dwell among the people — not above them, not distant, but near: "שְׁכַנְתִּי בְּתוֹכָם" – "And I shall dwell among them." (Shemos 25:8) Only at the very end do we see the culmination: "וַיַּכְסֵס הַעֲטָן אֶת־אֹתֶל מוֹעֵד" – "The cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of God filled the Mishkan." (Shemos 40:34) Now the journey is complete. Freedom becomes holiness; holiness becomes relationship.

Shemos is not only our national history. It is our spiritual roadmap.

- We wrestle with our own "slaveries" — habits, fears, pressures that own us.
- We yearn for freedom — time, choices, inner space.
- We learn to shape that freedom through values and mitzvos.
- And ultimately, we strive to create lives and communities in which God's Presence is felt — in kindness, integrity, learning, and prayer.

Redemption, then, is not only an escape from Egypt. It is the slow transformation of existence into relationship.

We are not merely freed from something — we are invited to live with Someone.

in
loving
memory



While the past year since our last News & Notes edition has been filled with many beautiful and joyous occasions, it has also been marked by profound loss. Sadly, we said goodbye to several cherished members of the Shoresh family — individuals whose impact on their families, our community, and the Jewish people will never be forgotten.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to **Ilana and Rabbi Tzvi Tuchman** on the passing of Ilana's father, **Emil Braun**, and to Rachel Shar on the loss of her father, David Ricklis. Both of these remarkable men were not only central pillars within their families, but devoted and influential contributors to the broader Jewish community. Their legacies of strength, faith, and commitment continue to inspire. Additionally, **Ann Jacobs**, mother of **MollyBeth Rushfield**, passed away. The saying, "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree" especially applies to Ann and MollyBeth, as Ann gave MollyBeth her love of children, storytelling, and dancing. Ann spent one of her last birthdays relaxing with her feet in the pool at camp, marveling at the beauty and inspiring views all around.

We also mourn the passing of three beloved members of the Shoresh family from Frederick: **Gene Klupt**, father of **Mark and Evan**; **Faythe Small**, mother of **Elizabeth and Jennifer**; and **James Nicholas**, beloved husband of **Sharon** (may she be well), devoted father to **Phil, Justin, Eric, Seth, and Chaviva**, loving father-in-law to three daughters-in-law, and proud grandfather to many grandchildren. James was truly a pillar of the Shoresh community. He was selfless, incredibly loyal, and deeply devoted to both his family and Shoresh. For decades, James volunteered tirelessly — always stepping up to do whatever was needed to help Shoresh succeed. He also served on our team for six years, helping to run and maintain our 107-acre campus. A no-nonsense, extremely hard worker, James simply wanted to get the job done as an expression of gratitude for all that Shoresh meant to his family. He was truly a once-in-a-generation individual.

Finally, we remember with deep affection two extraordinary friends whom we miss every single day: **Larry Katz and Richard Alter**. As head of the Crane Foundation, Larry devoted himself wholeheartedly to ensuring that children in need could attend camp. He personally worked tirelessly so that dozens upon dozens of children could receive camp scholarships, thus giving them the opportunity to become part of the Shoresh family and connect to their rich Jewish heritage.

Richard Alter was truly one-of-a-kind — in his personality, style, warmth, and ever-present smile. I first met Richard when I taught his and **Rosalie's** (may she be well) son, **Zach**, at BT. Richard quickly became deeply involved with Shoresh, joining the board and playing a major role in Shoresh's growth. He was instrumental in the purchase of our campus, working closely with **Josh Fidler** to help finalize the deal that allowed us to acquire our permanent home — a campus that has hosted and nurtured thousands of children over the past 25 years. With his background in real estate, Richard introduced us to architects, engineers, and professionals of every kind — guiding us from A to Z in the process of purchasing and building our beautiful campus. He was also exceptionally generous, always giving with an open heart and a sincere desire to see Shoresh flourish. And he and Rosalie opened up their beautiful home in Miami to us, and hosted the farewell dinner of our Fidler Teen Torah Center trip to Florida a few years ago. Finally, Debbie and I were personal beneficiaries of Richard's friendship. He also hosted us in Miami and invited us to his home in Baltimore, and the Finkelstein family had a tradition for many years of hosting the Alters in our sukkah. He was a true friend in every way.

May the memories of all these cherished individuals be a blessing. Their legacies live on through their families, through Shoresh, and through the countless lives they touched.

Adult Education Update: Learning That Connects, Inspires, and Grows

This year has been an exciting and meaningful one for adult Jewish learning, with classes and study opportunities reaching participants across communities, states, and stages of life. Our adult education offerings continue to reflect a shared desire for thoughtful engagement with Torah, meaningful discussion, and authentic connection.

Each Wednesday evening, learners gather online for our Zoom class **"Peeling Back the Parsha."** This dynamic weekly class dives beneath the surface of the weekly Torah portion, uncovering deeper themes, questions, and insights that resonate with contemporary life. The reach of this class has been especially inspiring, with regular participants joining from Frederick, Montgomery County, Ashburn (VA), Baltimore, and even other states — creating a vibrant, diverse learning community united by Torah.

For our Virginia residents, we offer a monthly class entitled **"Jukebox of Judaism."** This creative and engaging series takes classic song titles and explores them through the lens of Torah, tradition, and Jewish thought. Familiar tunes become springboards for fresh ideas, reflection, and meaningful conversation.

Another monthly offering, **"Biblical Stories Revisited,"** invites participants to return to well-known Torah narratives, this time with adult eyes and lived experience. Together, we explore these stories from a more mature and nuanced perspective than many of us encountered in our Hebrew School years, discovering new relevance and depth. In Baltimore, adult education takes many additional forms.



These include group discussions on contemporary Jewish topics hosted in local homes, small Talmud study chaburas, and numerous one-on-one learning opportunities tailored to individual interests and goals.

Adult learning is strongest when it is personal, relational, and responsive. If you are interested in joining any of these classes — or would like to start a new learning opportunity with your friends or family — please reach out to **Rabbi T** at [rabit@shoresh.com](mailto:rabbit@shoresh.com). We look forward to learning together.



Fidler Teen Torah Center Trips



2024: Houston & Dallas, Texas

Our Texas trip was packed with unforgettable experiences, from a true Texas rodeo and a Cowboys game, to exploring NASA and enjoying a stadium tour. Along the way, Chanukah celebrations, meaningful davening, and thoughtful learning created moments of inspiration that balanced adventure with purpose.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to **Avrumi** and **Aleeza Reches** for graciously hosting our group for a meal and helping with planning in Houston, and to **Oscar** and **Aviva Rosenberg** for hosting a beautiful oneg in Dallas. Special thanks go out to the **Epstein Family** for hosting a memorable barbecue, along with Ohr HaTorah and **Rabbi Feigenbaum** for their warmth and partnership. We are deeply grateful to the entire Houston and Dallas communities for opening their homes and hearts and welcoming us so generously.



2025: Road Trip to North Carolina, Atlanta & Tennessee

This trip brought us from the beaches of North Carolina to the Smoky Mountains, with exciting stops including Beat the Bomb, the World of Coca-Cola, Centennial Park, mountain coasters, and dazzling light shows. Throughout the journey, shared davening and learning grounded the fun, turning each stop into a meaningful and memorable experience.

We are sincerely thankful to **Matt Lewis** for his help with arrangements and to the **Storch family** for hosting a lovely oneg. We also extend our appreciation to Beth Jacob, with special thanks to **Rabbi Feldman**, and to the broader Atlanta Jewish community for their warmth, hospitality, and heartfelt welcome.



SHORESH: GOING STRONG ALL YEAR LONG! (3)

Celebrating Jewish Holidays with Shoresh Chanukah



On March 13, over 250 members of the Shoresh community gathered for a SUPER Purim celebration, and the energy was unmistakable from the moment everyone walked through the doors. **Rabbi T**'s lively Megillah reading set the tone for a night filled with energy, joy, and superhero spirit. The space was transformed with festive décor and heroic costumes, creating a fun and welcoming environment for all ages. A central theme of the night — that every person has the power to bring light and joy to the world — wove through the program and gave the celebration extra meaning. Families enjoyed the moon bounce, games, crafts, and nonstop dancing with Simcha Steps, plus a delicious Goldberg's Bagels dinner.

By the end of the night, the room was overflowing with the trademark Shoresh spirit of connection, meaning, community, and plenty of joy. It was a celebration that brought people together, lifted spirits, and reminded us just how powerful it is when our community celebrates as one.

Purim



Simchas Torah

From October 13-15, Shoresh hosted an unforgettable Simchas Torah celebration, bringing together over 170 people for what truly felt like a family reunion "from baby to Bubby," as we like to say. Grandparents, young families, teens, and school friends of **Dani Carter** all came together as one warm, joyful community. The atmosphere buzzed with connection from the very start, as familiar faces reunited and new friendships formed around shared meals and meaningful moments. Guests enjoyed delicious meals, inspiring classes, lively dancing, and uplifting singing that filled the room with excitement and unity. With teen learning, and even a game show, the packed Simchas Torah was filled with bonding, celebration, and pure Shoresh spirit — the kind of gathering that reminds us why this community truly feels like home.



Going strong all year long!

Camp Reunions



MoCo Reunion at SkyZone

Reuniting at Berman and JDS

Baltimore Reunion at AMF Bowling

Programming Throughout the Year



Baltimore Brew Crew
with Rabbi Alon and Erica Dek



Frederick Brew Crew
with Rabbi T



MoCo Brew Crew
with Rabbi T



Virginia Brew Crew
with Rabbi Dave



Reunion and class at UMD
with Rabbi Dave and Rabbi Mo



Baltimore Jew Crew (Middle School)
with Rabbi Majeski



Teen Bonfire Event
with s'mores, learning with Rabbi T, and singing



Teen SkyZone Event
organized by the Shores Teen Board

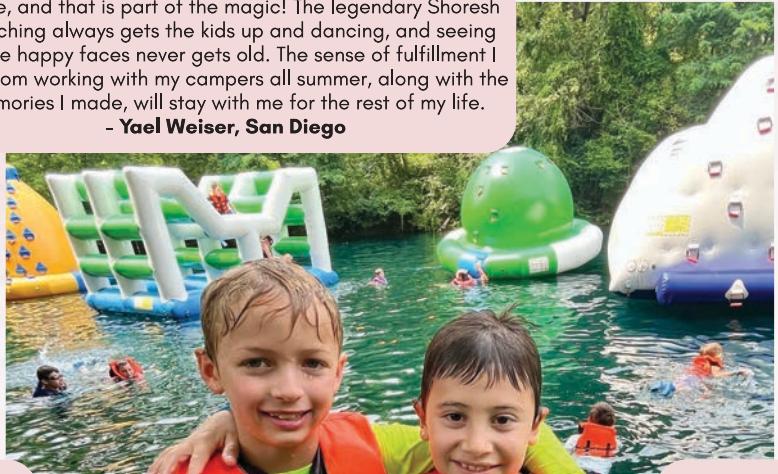


Teen volunteers decorating
the Shores Sukkah



What I love about Camp Shoresh is the warm, welcoming, and slightly chaotic atmosphere. No two days are ever the same, and that is part of the magic! The legendary Shoresh benching always gets the kids up and dancing, and seeing these happy faces never gets old. The sense of fulfillment I got from working with my campers all summer, along with the memories I made, will stay with me for the rest of my life.

- Yael Weiser, San Diego



Shoresh helps us connect our roots to other people's roots by having lots of fun together.

- Jayson Dowery, Baltimore

To me, Shoresh is one big family where everyone is inclusive and welcoming, and loves each other very, very much.

- Daniella Fogel, Baltimore



My favorite thing about camp is chocolate snow cones, archery and dressing up every week!

- Tzippy Litwack, Silver Spring





Being a CIT taught me how to problem solve, try things I'm not good at, and challenge myself in different ways. Most importantly, it taught me that you can learn something from everyone. Throughout my years at Shoresh, especially as a CIT, I became friends with people I don't see eye-to-eye with, and people I didn't know and didn't originally have any interest in getting to know. I learned that everyone has something to offer and it's important to see the good in people.

- Adina Stern, Baltimore



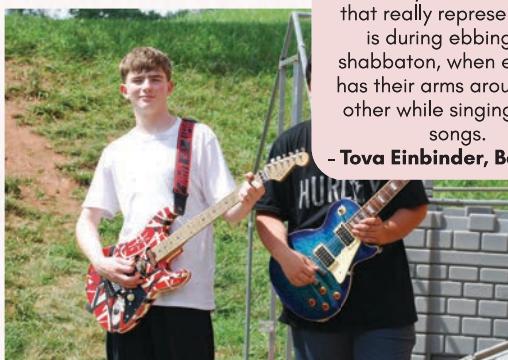
Shoresh is an incredible place where I have made so many memories and friendships. Color war is a highlight for me every summer.

- Hannah Wetrogan, Frederick



I love Shoresh because everyone there makes you feel like you belong, no matter your religious background. One of my favorite memories that really represents that is during ebbing at a shabbaton, when everyone has their arms around each other while singing Jewish songs.

- Tova Einbinder, Baltimore



BBQ Banquet

Frederick, MD - May 4, 2025

A rainy morning turned into an afternoon filled with radiant sunshine, just in time for Shoresh's 21st Annual BBQ at Frederick Keys Stadium! By the time families arrived, the field was already alive with excitement, and the atmosphere only grew warmer as the afternoon unfolded. The stadium buzzed with music, laughter, and community spirit as families enjoyed a full lineup of activities that made the day unforgettable. Kids bounced from inflatables to face painting, balloon twisting, pony rides, hay wagons, carnival booths, and crafts — each station adding its own burst of fun and color. The Knish Shop served up a delicious kosher BBQ that kept the lines moving and the crowd smiling, while VIP guests savored **Chef Dan**'s gourmet menu in the private suite — an elevated experience with a perfect view of the field. Meanwhile, the lively silent auction drew plenty of attention with its unique prizes, ranging from local adventures to treasured sports memorabilia. Every bid helped support the Shoresh Scholarship Fund, ensuring that every child can attend Camp Shoresh and participate in Shoresh year-round programming regardless of financial need. As the sun cast a golden glow over the field, the crowd gathered for a moving tribute to Israeli Chayalim, led beautifully by **Yaakov Rosenblum**. The heartfelt song and moment of unity underscored Shoresh's deep connection to the land and people of Israel, adding powerful meaning to an already special day. Shoresh's 21st Annual BBQ was more than a celebration — it was a day of gratitude, unity, and meaningful fun, reflecting Shoresh's commitment to building Jewish identity one relationship at a time.



Pony Rides



Face Paint Fun



Rabbi Stein is always the center of attention!



Tova with the Turtle and Zev



Shoresh BBQ Staff



Raven's Rock the house!



The Wolaskys had a great time on the hay ride!



Welcome back Shoresh legend Phran Edelman!

Walk of Fame Star Ceremonies



This summer, Shoresh's Star Ceremonies brought together friends, campers, and family to honor **Alon and Erica Dek**, and **Yakov and Shanni Majeski**, in recognition of their dedication, commitment, and lasting impact on Shoresh. Surrounded by our Shoresh family, these meaningful moments celebrated the heart, leadership, and devotion they bring to our year-round organization.

Campus Updates



The Shoresh campus continues to grow in the most exciting ways! Campers are loving the new Up and Over Wall, where teamwork, confidence, and determination come to life, along with our brand-new treehouse by the creek near the stream. Nestled in the woods, the treehouse invites imagination, exploration, and fun adventures, while the Up and Over Wall adds an exciting team-building challenge that brings campers together in meaningful ways. These additions are already creating new energy, strengthening friendships, and adding memorable experiences across our campus.

Shoresh Difference Makers



Max and Vika Cantor, now living in Hollywood, Florida, bring their deep Shoresh roots and passion for Jewish life wherever they go. Max, originally from Frederick, Maryland, joined Junior Shoresh as a child, returned in 2008 as a fifth grader, and stayed involved as both camper and staff through 2023. Vika, from Chicago, became part of the Shoresh family after they married and served on staff in 2023. Max recently earned his master's in social work and is preparing for a new professional chapter, while Vika works as the program director at Yeshiva Elementary School. They recently welcomed their first child, a baby girl, **Aviva Rivka**. Shoresh has had a lasting impact on them, inspiring pride in being Jewish and joy in sharing that pride with others. Vika's most meaningful memory is her first Friday night at Rabbi Dave's house, where she instantly felt part of the Shoresh family, and Max fondly recalls the 2015 Arizona trip and an Orioles game with Rabbi Dave that convinced him to return—right before the unforgettable "Skits with Max and Liav" era began.



Rabbi Josh Radbill, a proud Shoresh alum, lives in Passaic, New Jersey with his wife Pnina and their four children, ages 17, 13, 10, and 9. He attended Shoresh from 1987 to 2002, beginning as a young camper and later working on staff for his final three summers. Raised in Frederick and attending public school through 10th grade, Shoresh was Josh's first meaningful introduction to Orthodox Judaism. It was at Shoresh Shabbatons that he experienced his first Shabbos, and he recalls the camp's warm, inclusive environment where kids from all backgrounds came together to have fun and explore their Jewish identity. A defining moment came during a 7th grade Shabbaton in Baltimore when he stayed at his counselor's home. The simplicity of their apartment, combined with the joy and purpose he witnessed in that Torah-filled home, left a lasting impression. After seven years of learning in kollel at Yeshivas Mir Yerushalayim, Josh moved to Passaic in 2014, attended law school, and now works for an insurance company. Beyond his professional work, he gives shiurim in his community, learns Daf Yomi, and is actively involved in Zichru, a program that supports long-term Torah retention. Many of the relationships he formed with his Shoresh counselors remain close and continue to influence his life today.

Mira Tash was a Shoresh camper from 2003 to 2013 and a beloved staff member in the Lower Girls Division from 2014 to 2017. She is currently living in Jerusalem and made Aliyah. Before her move, Mira worked as a special education teacher in a self-contained classroom for middle school students with significant intellectual and behavioral disabilities. In Israel, she has been teaching English and will be stepping into a new role as a general studies teacher for fourth grade. Though she is excited for this next chapter, Mira looks forward to strengthening her Hebrew and returning to the world of severe special education, which she deeply misses. She credits Shoresh with being the first place where she felt truly known and supported by staff, who not only nurtured her friendships but helped lay the foundation for lifelong bonds, some of those friends becoming college roommates, bridesmaids, and still her closest companions today. Mira fondly recalls the early days of camp when everyone ate in the pavilion, Friday BBQs were a weekly tradition, and counselor skits, especially the one where ketchup was used as sunscreen, left her in stitches. She says Shoresh gave her not only her first trip to Israel but a family that has remained with her for over 20 years.



Rabbi Yisrael Katz currently lives in Ramat Beit Shemesh with his wife and their three beautiful daughters. His Shoresh journey began around 2006, starting as a CIT for two summers before joining the staff until 2010. Today, Yisrael serves as the Director of Strategic Partnerships at Aish, overseeing all major gifts and global relationships. Before joining Aish, he spent nearly a decade with NCSY, first on the West Coast for three and a half years and then in Denver, Colorado, for five and a half years, dedicating himself to Jewish outreach and leadership development. Shoresh played a foundational role in shaping Yisrael's approach to life and leadership. Inspired by figures like **Rabbi Dave Finkelstein**, **Rabbi Asher Stein**, **Rabbi Alon Dek**, **Rabbi Mo Margolese**, and **Rabbi Aryeh Zigdon**, he learned the power of leading by example and the importance of balancing personal and professional values. Over time, this inspiration drove him to pursue work that was meaningful and impactful, rather than just a paycheck, ultimately fueling his commitment to helping the Jewish people, and the world, to the highest level he can. When it comes to favorite memories, Yisrael smiles and admits that one story is "sworn to secrecy," though it involved a van, honey, feathers, and a paintball gun. Another set of memories that stand out are the legendary color wars. While the results didn't always go his way ("the fix was in," he jokes), the real victory was the sense of unity and bonding among the staff and campers — moments of laughter, teamwork, and spirit that left a lasting mark.



Rabbi Shaya Katz was part of the Shoresh family from around 2004 to 2009, serving as both a CIT and staff member during some of the most formative years of his life. He describes Shoresh as the place where he first discovered the transformative power of teaching and living Torah, and where he began to understand the deep responsibility and incredible privilege of inspiring others in their Jewish journey. The experience of learning with campers, modeling mitzvah observance, and building meaningful relationships helped shape his path toward the rabbinate. Today, Shaya lives in Detroit and serves as the rabbi of Young Israel of Oak Park, a vibrant community in the suburbs of Metro Detroit. He fondly recalls pushing past his introverted nature to passionately lead birkat hamazon, sing his heart out during color war, and bring emotion to shabbaton cantatas, all in the hopes of igniting that same spark of connection to Judaism in others that Shoresh lit in him.



Rabbi Moshe Yaakov Edelman, who lives in Baltimore and serves as the Rosh Yeshiva of Gevuras Ari, a yeshiva for retired professionals, traces his roots to Frederick, Maryland, where he grew up attending public school through eighth grade. With the encouragement of close family friend **Rabbi Avi Kosman**, who also spoke with his parents, he made the life-changing decision to continue his Jewish education at Ner Yisrael. He later spent 14 years studying in Israel at Yeshivas Toras Moshe and the Mir, deepening his connection to Torah and Jewish life. A proud Shoresh alum, Rabbi Edelman fondly remembers singing "V'ne emar" in Aleinu with **Rabbi Dave Finkelstein** and **Rabbi Asher Stein** in three-part harmony and his counselor, **Yossi Ryback**, bringing Jewish warmth and friendship with something as simple as kosher lemon drops, a rare treat in Frederick. He credits Shoresh, along with inspiring Jewish music and original songs by Rabbi Avi Kosman and **Rabbi Chaim Kosman**, for helping him discover the joy, meaning, and pride of living a Jewish life. Today, he shares that inspiration through Rebbe's Mussar Stories, a nonprofit he founded to help children and families connect with timeless Jewish values in a way that is engaging, relatable, and uplifting for everyone.



Mollie Sharfman, a proud alumna now living in Washington, D.C., first joined Camp Shoresh as a camper in 1999 and later returned as a staff member, serving for several summers as a co-lead for the CITs, an experience she describes as the source of some of her most cherished memories. Today, Mollie works with Jewish students at Georgetown University, helping to build spiritual connection, community, and resilience. She also directs a summer camp for bereaved Israeli children through Friends of the IDF (FIDF), supporting those who lost loved ones on October 7th. Recently, she earned her Master's in International Public Policy from Johns Hopkins SAIS. Mollie credits Shoresh with instilling in her a lasting sense of Jewish pride, community, and belonging, rooted in values like kindness, kavod, ruach, and responsibility. That same passion for joyful Jewish education led her to work with Jewish communities from the former Soviet Union in Germany through the Lauder Foundation, where she helped girls choose Hebrew names and celebrate their bat mitzvahs for the first time. Her favorite Shoresh memories include the epic energy of Color War and, above all, the unforgettable experience of benching, filled with joy, meaning, and unity that continues to inspire her today.



From the Shoresh Inbox

"I've been meaning to email to thank you for the classes. I always leave with an amazing feeling and an understanding of the things we discussed in your teachings. So thank you for your service and dedication."

"Thank you so much for including me in the class, it was so much fun. I miss Shoresh so much."

Jewish Lifecycle:

"I want to express my deepest gratitude to you and the Shoresh staff who assisted in making our daughter's celebration such a success!"

It was beyond special for me (and the whole family) to have her bunkmates and friends join in this significant milestone. Shoresh is such a unique place and we're so blessed to be part of it! We are already looking forward to next year. Thank you again so much!!!"

"I spent a little time on your website, marveling at all you have accomplished in the nearly 4 decades since we first met in Frederick. Both of us were a lot younger back then, and both of us have had a long and, I daresay, successful journey. Of the two journeys, I must confess admiring what you have done. You have positively impacted the lives of thousands of young Jewish kids, who have gone on to impact others, have families, and raise children to be good citizens and good Jews. That is a legacy to be much admired, which is why you are one of my heroes.

Keep on keeping on, and keep doing what you are doing. We are all better for it."

"Thank you for everything you do - for us, our family, and beyond to all the people you touch."

"What a lovely testament to the deep and individualized work that YOU do, Rebbe, and to the way you teach our Torah! Yasher koach. I know I speak for all of us in this group when I convey our heartfelt thanks for encouraging us to join you, your family, your staff and 'your kids' on this journey. Thank you all mainly for your prayers on my behalf, and also for the beautiful Purim candy gift box. And Rabbi Dave, thank you for your visit and words of comfort. Your concern is very important to me. I'm so lucky to be part of this wonderful Shoresh family! I want to thank you for the contribution to Shoresh on my behalf. Knowing that so many religious people are praying for my recovery is very uplifting. I am very lucky to be associated with such a wonderful group of people that I consider family. This relationship has been going on for more than 40 years and it gets better each year. Your kindness and compassion is greatly appreciated."

Appreciation

"Camp Shoresh: Thank you for your participation in the 2025 Work Ready Summer Jobs Program. We are grateful for your partnership in offering local youth an opportunity to develop workplace skills!"

-Frederick County Workforce Services

"On behalf of the Frederick County Sheriff's Office staff, I would like to thank you for the delicious cookies that you donated to the office on July 23, 2025. We are extremely grateful for your support and appreciation. Your kind donation is very much appreciated and was shared with everyone at the Law Enforcement Complex.

The employees and I appreciate your thoughtfulness and continued support of local law enforcement and corrections here and across the Nation. Again, thank you for your generous donation and for taking the time to recognize our efforts."

-Charles A. Jenkins, Sheriff

One of the amazing things about Camp Shoresh is the diversity of the kids who attend. For some teens who attend the winter teen trip, it might be an opportunity to observe shabbas and be around only other Jewish teens for a week, both of which they never/rarely do. For others who do regularly keep shabbas and have mostly Jewish friends, it might be an opportunity to experience judaism in a different way, to get out of their comfort zone, to take on roles they might not otherwise...

This photo warms my heart and is in fact my kid's first time ever doing hagba. To me, this picture sums up shoresh... finding one's place and strength within judaism, in whatever way one finds meaning ❤️



"We are grateful to be able to contribute to Shoresh in memory of our beloved Rabbi Kosman. Rabbi Kosman and Shoresh programs and rabbis have awakened our Jewish souls and continue to nurture them in us, our children D and A, and one day, we hope, in our grandchildren as well."

Board Retreat

On January 12, 2025, Shoresh held a board retreat at the beautiful home of **Dov** and **Jenny Ocken**. It was so helpful to internalize what we were accomplishing in the organization on a daily basis, in a very special and informative way. We also took the opportunity to see where we could improve as a board to be more effective working together with the year-round staff.

Judy Gadiel who was hired to mentor our board, facilitated the retreat alongside, **Board Chairman John Davison** and **President Yona Openden**.



Mazel Tovs

Weddings

Leeba Goldenhersh to Bentzi Azose

Chana Jacobs to **Yechiel Hyman**

Leah Pretter to **Rami Kelemer**

Rivka Samuel to **Ben Kron**

Racheli Adest to **Aitan Lewis**

Adi Singerman to Shmuel Klahr

Nechama Golda Stein to Moshe Mordechai Coleman

Sarah Tsimmerman to Jake Lasher

Zahava Greenberger to Chananya Goldner



Engagements

Keren Binyamin to Arman Saadat

Zahava Chefitz to Yisroel Pepper

Samantha Goldstein to **Sammy Cohen**

Ayelet Friedman to Ben Meisels

Shira Robkin to **David Kanovsky**

Meira Kanovsky to Meir Eretsky

Kayla Frohlich to **Ethan Kaplan**

Gavi Kauffman to Aaron Metheny

Sarah Fruman to **Avi Kohen**

Rikki Margalit to Marc Landsberg

Hannah Marill to Jake Rabinowitz

Yaffa Ginsparg to **Elchonon Mitnick**

Samantha Reiz to Tzali Moskovitz

Yiska Chana Teich to Aaron Feld

Jonathan Rosen to Basya Gunzburg

Births

A daughter, Rivka Leah, to Adina & **Davy Adise**

A son, Phishel Gavriel (Gavi), to **Chana (Sharaby)** & Moshe Dovid **Artman**

A daughter, Hallilia, to **Chaya (Lipman)** & Matanya **Bar-lev**

A son, Charles Wallace/Ovadia Amichai, to **Ateret (Frank)** & Jonathan **Brauner**

A son, Yitzchak Ahron, to **Ella (Edelman)** & Moshe **Deutsch**

A son, Ayal Yizchak, to Hannah & **Avi Edelman**

A daughter, Eylah Danielle, to Rachel & **Gooey Edelman**

A son, Yitzchak Mordechai, to **Elisheva (Finkelstein)** & **Eli Frenkel**

A daughter, Dalia Menucha, to **Aviva (Lombardo)** & **Shmuel Gabai**

A daughter, Eva Liora, to **Andrea (Kandel)** & Matt **Gardner**

A daughter, Ahuva, to **Leah (Schnidman)** & Moshe **Pruzansky**

A daughter, Nava Leah, to Chaya & **Mordy Reches**

A daughter, Nechama Leah, to **Tamar (Edelman)** & Moshe **Reches**

A son, Binyamin Boruch, to Tirza & Mahyer Reischer (mazel tov to grandparents, **Tammy (Gibber)** & **Chanina Reischer!**)

A son, Yisroel Simcha, to Elana (Openden) & Yaakov Rosenblum (mazel tov to grandparents, Board President **Yona** & **Yossi Openden!**)

A son, Todros Yehuda, to Becky (Perlow) & **Dov Solomont**

A daughter, Techelet Geula, to Avigail & **Arky Staiman**

A son, Avraham Simcha, to Aviva & **Eli Taragin**

A daughter, Yakira Ettel, to **Shira** & **Avi Thurman**

A son, Tzvi Aryeh, to Eliana & **YY Trout**

A son, Arnie, to Shaina & **Pasey Wealcatch**

A son, Yaakov Meir, to **Chana Leah (Ravin)** & Yosef **Zimmerman**



Please email shoresh@shoresh.com with your "mazel tovs" to include in future issues!

Shoresh Israel Reunion



Solomon Brothers



Visiting Israel with my husband, daughter and mother to see my daughter in seminary was a meaningful and memorable experience. Joining three generations of Shoresh alumni for an evening of prayer, song, and celebration beautifully reflected the enduring impact of the Shoresh community.
- **Tamara Breitowitz**



Rabbi Rocky and the Nicholas family



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For the aliyah of the neshama of
Esther Chana bat Zvi Hersh, ZT"ל
by the Schoenfeld family



Jessica Fitzwater County Executive from Frederick, Maryland with Rabbi Dave at an event at BCRC in Washington



Vice Presidents Yaakov Spatz & Dov Ocken



Aaron Goldberg & Beth Eisenberg enjoying the BBQ at Keys Stadium

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Jason Reitberger & Jerry Wolasky with Rabbi Dave & Rabbi T